BIOS

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists • Spring 2010

Volume 25 • Number 1

ASPB's New Executive Director - Joe Woytowich

I would like to spend a moment with you to introduce myself. As you can see by my photo, I am a man of mystery and intrigue. (Sorry, but I don't have a photo I could send in.) Don't let this alarm you; over the next several months many of you will get to know me personally, as I wade quickly into the societal business of running our organization. I have been working in the non-profit sector and with the provincial and federal governments for over 25 years, and feel that all of the experience I have gained will help me in my endeavours with the ASPB

I am not a member of the ASPB, but I assure you my only wish is to see this organization grow and become stronger. I will be, as the Executive Director, an *ad hoc* member of all committees, which means I will be working right alongside of you to make the committees, which are the lifeblood of this organization, even more effective, pro-active and far reaching.

It has been my pleasure to attend a few meetings and the energy and excitement that I have felt has been gratifying. It means that the members of this organization, who have chosen to become involved with committee work, have, as I do, the greatest interest in moulding the future of this profession and elevating how it is viewed by the public, various levels of government and by fraternal organizations.

I am going to work as diligently as possible to make the ASPB the first call source of all of the above listed groups, when it comes to accessing clear, concise and cogent information about the ASPB, its programs, its endeavours and its members.

As your Executive Director I am responsible , ultimately, to you the membership and I will work with you to make this organization a model of efficiency and member-friendly services that will make even more of you want to take part in shaping the future of the ASPB.

ASPB 2010 Conference & AGM

April 14 and 15, 2010 at the Calgary Zoo

"Innovations and Advancements in Biology"
On-line Registration and the Conference Program are available at **www.aspb.ab.ca**

Help us advertise the conference by going to the website, printing the poster and then by sharing it: post it at work, email it to colleagues….you can help make this conference a success!

In This Issue

ASPB's New Executive Director - Joe Woytowich 1
ASPB 2010 Conference & AGM 1
ASPB Contact Numbers 2
Ethics Committee Update 2
Interview with a Biologist, Gerry Haekel 3
ASPB Welcomes its Newest Members 4
A Biology Degree by Another Name 5
Ban DiHydrogen Monoxide! 5
Letter to the Editor 6
ASPB Discussion Forum 6
Coming: Book Reviews 6
Hoo Are You? 7
Upcoming ASPB Events 8
ASPB Call for Volunteers 8

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists
P.O. Box 21104
Edmonton, Alberta
T6R 2V4
Tel: (780) 434-5765
Fax: (780) 413-0076
E-mail: pbiol@aspb.ab.ca
http://www.aspb.ab.ca

President
Gerry Haekel, P. Biol. (780) 427-4767

President Elect
Laurie Hamilton, P. Biol. (403) 279-2476

Secretary
Glenda Fratton, P. Biol. (403) 270-4851

Treasurer
Gary Ash, P. Biol. (780) 930-8666

Past President
Carol Engstrom, P. Biol. (403) 298-7044

Director
Henri de Pennart, P. Biol. (403) 206-0503

Director
Kerri Charest, P. Biol. (780) 433-2522

Director
Peter May, P. Biol. (403) 279-1173

Director
Scott Grindal, P. Biol. (403) 233-3687

Public Member
David McInnes (780) 423-7651

Registrar
Bette Beswick, P. Biol. (403) 560-4357

Executive Director
Joe Woytowich

Professional Development (Calgary)
Susan Patey LeDrew, P. Biol (403) 645-6049
Ken Chatel, P. Biol. (403) 699-2497

Professional Development (Edmonton)
Angela Holzapfel, P. Biol. (780) 483-3499

Mentorship Coordinator
Myriam Zadnik (780) 974-4799

Communications
Kristen Foreman, P. Biol. (403) 538-5708

Discipline
Brian Bietz, P. Biol. (403) 259-6571

BIOS Editor
Linda Zimmerling, P. Biol. (780) 906-9007

Association & Event Coordinator
Joy Sager (780) 434-5765

Membership Coordinator
Shauna Prokopchuk (780) 434-5765

BIOS is published for the enjoyment and benefit of the members of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists and those interested in the field of professional biology. Articles or comments are welcomed and should be sent to the editor, Linda Zimmerling at lindazim@shaw.ca.

Ethics Committee Update

In October 2008, the Ethics Committee, consisting of Robert Dallas, Lorne Fitch, Gina Fryer, Laurie Hamilton, Peter May and Dave McInnes, was tasked by the Board to do the following:

1. Review ethical requirements of members,
2. Update ASPB's Code Of Ethics, and
3. Develop new ethical competency requirements for the membership.

The Ethics Committee is an ad-hoc committee formed to interpret and implement ASPB By-law 3.05, which states the following:

> *3.05 Ethical Practice Competency. All regulated members of the Association shall be required to demonstrate they understand the Association's Code of Ethics and their application by the method prescribed by the Association.*
> *This requirement must be completed:*
> *(a) as an admission requirement for all new applicants for registration in the Association as a registered Professional Biologist after the applicant has met all the other admission requirements;*
> *(b) within 3 years for existing regulated members of the Association from the date as prescribed by the current Continuing Competency Program requirements established by the Association.*

(http://www.aspb.ab.ca/page_attachments/0000/0217/ASPB-Bylaws.pdf)

In May 2009, the Ethics Committee made their recommendations to the Board (which were subsequently accepted), as follows:

1. Conduct a telephone survey of the membership on ethical issues facing biologists, where the results would be used as a resource for the Ethics Committee to develop its recommendations,
2. Update the ASPB Code of Ethics through review of Codes from similar organizations, have the update reviewed by ASPB's lawyer and then approved by the Board so that it can be presented to the membership as an update to our By-laws,
3. Create an on-line/computer-based exam, as it is accessible to the majority of the membership, can accommodate a high volume quickly (800 plus new applicants), and provides a basic understanding of the Code of Ethics,
4. Roll out the on-line exam at the 2010 Annual General Meeting,
5. Provide additional requirements and resources to the membership. Suggestions included:
   - Interactive ethics workshop to replace the on-line course
   - Mandatory ethics workshop participation at regular intervals
   - Practice Advisors
   - Obtain legal advisor
   - Create a regular feature in BIOS that presents ethics scenarios and applications of the Code of Ethics to these scenarios

Currently, the following tasks have been completed:

- Ethics survey has been completed.
- Code of Ethics has been updated.
- ASPB has retained a lawyer that specializes in professional regulation.
- Template for an on-line course has been created by ASPB's webmaster.
- Example course questions have been created and need to be finalized.

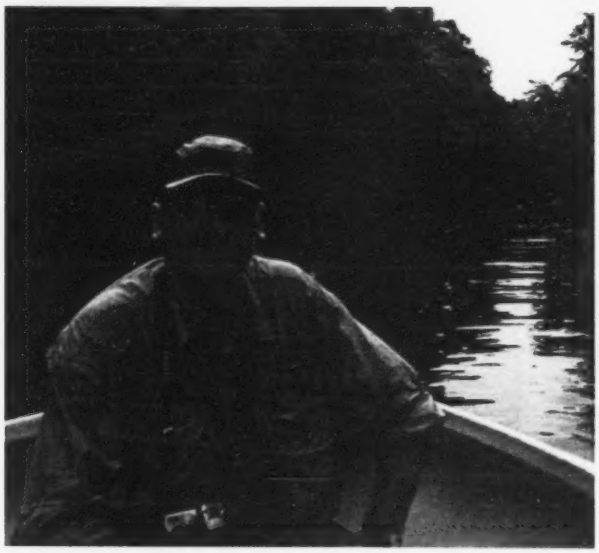
Creation of the on-line course is on schedule, and roll out at the Annual General Meeting is anticipated.

Roll out of the on-line course will include providing details on the website, in BIOS, through the e-bulletin and through registration renewal.

Once the on-line course is available, all new applicants for regular membership will be required to complete it before they are eligible for admission (including B.I.T.s reclassifying to regular member). Existing regular members will have up to three years to complete it.

Interview with a Biologist: Gerry Haekel, P.Biol.

by Ngaio Hotte, P. Biol.



In addition to holding the position of President with the ASPB, Gerry Haekel is the head of a unit within Sustainable Resource Development's (SRD's) Lands Division that is responsible for setting policy direction for provincial shorelands and riparian areas.

Gerry believes that his interest in biology began with his many summers spent camping and fishing in the BC Kootenays with his family. He recalls being inspired by a television program from Ontario during his childhood called "The Forest Rangers". The show was influential, and his mother remembers that, from an early age, Gerry wanted to become a forest ranger. Though his interests later led him away from forestry, and into the study of ecology and physical geography, he currently holds a delegated appointment as a forest officer.

Working with SRD

Since he first joined SRD in 1993, his position has evolved from field work to policy work, based on his expertise and interest in aquatics. Specifically, his passions are wetland conservation and limnology, and managing littoral areas associated with lakes and watercourses, and their associated riparian areas. Recently, his expertise has led to involvement in the reclamation of wetlands and peatlands associated with oil sands and peat harvesting operations. Still, his work is motivated by one long-standing goal: to develop a provincial wetland conservation policy. Gerry began working on the wetland policy file in 1993. Since that time, Alberta has had an interim wetland policy, but has never achieved implementation of an official, province-wide policy to guide wetland conservation in the province.

He admits that the speed of progress has been frustrating, but at the same time, he is motivated by the opportunity to put a policy in place that will have a meaningful, long-term outcome. His job has also afforded him the opportunity to visit many remote parts of the province; places that he appreciates he may never have otherwise seen.

Gerry foresees a great deal more work in the area of wetlands on the horizon for biologists in Alberta, and a greater focus on inventorying, monitoring, and conducting biophysical assessments as recognition of the value of wetlands grows. Key challenges also remain around threatened and endangered wildlife species and their ranges in the province.

Experiences on the Board of the ASPB

Prior to taking on the position of President with the ASPB, Gerry was involved with the Board as a Director. As a Director, he recognized that his process oriented and orderly nature was a valuable asset to the organization, and liked the idea of the challenge that would come with being President. During his term, he has taken steps to provide support mechanisms to the ASPB. This has included steps to recognize ASPB volunteers for the valuable work they contribute, and helping the ASPB obtain legal representation, in recognition of a growing number of members both within Alberta and under TILMA. With growing membership comes new issues, and a need to address potential practice and discipline issues. Gerry is also pleased that the ASBP was able to initiate the establishment of scholarship endowments for biologists with three major Alberta universities, largely as a result of the efforts of our former Executive Director, Robin Leech.

Gerry feels that it is important for the ASPB's general membership to become more involved in the organization, through participation in committees, the Board, and activities. He believes that there is an obligation for both young and older biologists to give back to the organization and the community, and that this type of involvement would go a long way to raise the profile of the organization. Gerry would also like to see more reports stamped by professional members, to promote the value and reputation of the organization.

Outside the office

When he's not volunteering with the ASPB or working on shoreline and riparian areas policy, Gerry devotes time as a Cub Scout leader and a member of the Natural Areas Advisory Committee for the City of Edmonton.

Gerry also makes time for his hobbies, including gardening, photography and fly fishing. He reflects, "All these activities keep me grounded to the land and keep me connected to the wildness of nature." For him, fly fishing is not about catching something. "There is a calming Zen to casting a fly along a tumbling stream and sharing that space with Kingfishers as they flirt back and forth across the stream, scolding you for interfering with their fishing," he says. "In contrast, Great Blue Herons teach one patience as they too stalk fish, while Red-tailed Hawks ride thermals overhead, watching everything that's going on."

Gerry's term as President wraps up in April, as the ASPB welcomes a new President. So this August, Gerry will take some time to achieve a long-standing dream: to travel through the North West Passage in the high arctic. The ASPB would like to thank Gerry for all his hard work as President, and wishes him all the best with his travels! Gerry will continue to support the Board as Past-President.

ASPB Welcomes Its Newest Members

Professional Biologist P. Biol.

John Adcock
Cory Aikins
Lorraine Andrusiak
Emily Baulk
Edward Belmonte
Dan Bernier
Debangshu Bhaumick
Scott Brejcha
Dan Busemeyer
Wesley Caldwell
Joanne Campbell
Grant Chapman
Michael Charlebois
Christopher Clement
Bruce Cole
Anna Daku
Christine Daly
Kelly Day
Philip De Witt
Meghan Dear
Nick DeCarlo
Maria Didkowsky
Christopher Downie
Kelly Eaton
Sarah Elmeligi
Julie Figures
Kristen Foreman
Clint Gellrich
Courtney Gress
Brandi Hall
Sharleen Hamm
Chad Harrison
Shawn Hilton
Sherry Hohn
Samantha James
Tyler Jans
Emeric Janssens
Darryl Jarina
Kevin Kemball
Curt Kerns
Jonathan Kolochuk
Devin Letourneau
Margaret Magai
Katerina Makos
James Malick
Lisa May
Peter McNamee
Lea Menzies
George Milner
Jon Nachtigall
James Neville
Chris Newton
Evelyne Nyairo
Adrian Olenick
Mandy Olsgard-Dumanski
Vitaly Ostroumov
Jessica Penno
Maxwell Price
Lisa Priestley
Douglas Rice
Terry Riou
Geneva Robins
Kristie Romanow
Katherine Sheriff
Hans Skatter
Natisha Stashko
Erin Stotschek
Clarisse Thornton
Ingrid van Herk
Mike Waters
Donald Watson
Jeannette Wheeler
Christopher Wood
Lasha Young

Biologist In Training BIT

Badrudeen Adekunle
Tara Bernat
Trevor Berry
Erin Black
Courtney Blackmore
Joel Block
Vesna Brumec-Turk
Todd Brunner
Christine Campbell
Ian Charach
Meghan Chisholm
Anna Chmielinski
Arif Chowdhury
Michael Davies
Justin Denroche
Kristie Derkson
Andrew Harbicht
Jeanelle James
Bev Jamieson
Brittney Johnstone
Meghan Klaudt
Kelly Kneteman
Kristy Knowlton
Travis Kurinka
Trevor Lafreniere
Ryan Lay
Ian Levitt
Charlie Loewen
Suzanne Musolino
Natasha Myers
Kathy Norris
Henry Ogbomo
Katrina Patel
Colleen Phelan
Marcie Plishka
Michael Raess
Heather Riggs
Cameron Robinson
Janet Scott
Jennifer Sherburne
Audrey Steedman
Mark Svenson
Caroline van Besouw
Michael Verhage
Mélanie Violette
Graham Young
Nazila Zohadi

Student Biologists

Joelyn Kozar
Kevin Lickiss
Susara Marcotte
Adrijana Sevo

Honorary Biologists

Peter Sherrington

Membership Statistics

Membership Type	Current Members
P. Biol	699
BIT	142
Student	11
Associate	11
Public	1
Honorary	7
Temporary Withdrawn	7
Total Members	878

This number has already grown since publication!

Articles Wanted

So now you're part of the ASPB. Why not submit an article? Tell us why you joined. Who influenced you? How did you hear about the Society? We are always looking for articles to put in the BIOS Newsletter. If you have a story or an issue you would like to share with your fellow professionals, please submit it to lindazim@shaw.ca.

A Biology Degree by Another Name

By Bette Beswick, P.Biol. (ASPB Registrar)

Since 1975, when the ASPB was established, university science programs have evolved to include interdisciplinary degrees that have a substantial biological component. This has provided the ASPB's Registration Committee with fodder for numerous debates about whether candidates have sufficient biology courses in their academic training to have a degree equivalent to a biology degree. The question of what constitutes a degree in biology (or equivalent) was discussed at some length with the British Columbia College of Applied Biologists (the professional organization in BC which is equivalent to the ASPB) when the Trade Industry Labour Mobility Agreement was implemented.

There was substantial discussion on whether certain core courses should be required. For instance, can a person be adequately trained as a biologist without a course in genetics? The decision finally settled on requiring a candidate to have broad biological training, without any specific course list requirement. As a result, the Registration Committee requires Professional Biologist (P. Biol.) or Biologist in Training (BIT) applicants to meet either of the following two academic requirements:

- have a degree in biology from a university acceptable to the Registration Committee (this is the traditional "biology" program originally envisioned by the ASPB, in such fields as biology, botany, zoology, microbiology, ecology); or
- have a degree that includes 25 science courses: 15 of these courses must be in biology and four must be at a senior level.

The members of the Registration Committee understand that many courses do not carry the banner of being called a biology course yet may, in fact, have substantial biological content. For example, many Environmental Science courses are biology courses under a different name. Therefore, the Committee often will allow a course without "biology" in its title to count towards the biology course quota.

Individuals who are interested in becoming an ASPB member but have been reluctant to apply because they do not have a degree with a "biology" label, may want to give it a second thought. Many graduates of natural science programs have substantial biological training and are welcomed as members of the ASPB.

Ban DiHydrogen Monoxide!

A Spoof by Robin Leech, P.Biol.

Dihydrogen monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and kills uncounted thousands of people every year. Most of these deaths are caused by accidental inhalation of DHMO, but the dangers of dihydrogen monoxide do not end there. Prolonged exposure to its solid form causes severe tissue damage. Symptoms of DHMO ingestion can include excessive sweating and urination, and possibly a bloated feeling, nausea, vomiting and body electrolyte imbalance. For those who have become dependent, DHMO withdrawal means certain death.

Dihydrogen monoxide:

a) is also known as hydroxl acid, and is the major component of acid rain.
b) contributes to the "greenhouse effect."
c) may cause severe burns.
d) contributes to the erosion of our natural landscape.
e) accelerates corrosion and rusting of many metals.
f) may cause electrical failures and decreased effectiveness of automobile brakes.
g) has been found in excised tumors of terminal cancer patients.

Contamination is reaching epidemic proportions!

Quantities of dihydrogen monoxide have been found in almost every stream, lake, and reservoir in America today. But the pollution is global, and the contaminant has even been found in Antarctic ice. DHMO has caused millions of dollars of property damage in the American Midwest, and recently in California.

Despite the danger, dihydrogen monoxide is often used:

a) as an industrial solvent and coolant.
b) in nuclear power plants.
c) in the production of styrofoam.
d) as a fire retardant.
e) in many forms of cruel animal research.
f) in the distribution of pesticides. Even after washing, produce remains contaminated by this chemical.
g) as an additive in certain "junk-foods" and other food products.

Companies dump waste DHMO into rivers and the ocean, and nothing can be done to stop them because this practice is still legal. The impact on wildlife is extreme, and we cannot afford to ignore it any longer!

The American government has refused to ban the production, distribution, or use of this damaging chemical due to its "importance to the economic health of this nation." In fact, the navy and other military organizations are conducting experiments with DHMO, and designing multi-billion dollar devices to control and utilize it during warfare situations. Hundreds of military research facilities receive tons of it through a highly sophisticated underground distribution network. Many store large quantities for later use.

Editor's notes: How did this article make you feel? See what the media can do? Concentrate now: DiHydrogen Monoxide. Read the article again. It changes your whole perspective if you missed it the first time. Feel free to start a discussion on the Discussion Forum about the power and influence of media, and how people can be swayed by a well-written article.

Letter to the Editor

THE FUTURE OF ALBERTA'S GRIZZLY BEAR

by Robin Leech, P. Biol.

Photo Credit: Linda Zimmerling, P. Biol.

Two articles appeared recently in the *Edmonton Journal* on the possible fate of the grizzly bear. The first, on 4 March 2010, by Trish Audette, is titled, "Alberta grizzly bears number 700" with the subtitle "17,000 in B.C.". The second, on 8 March 2010, by Darcy Henton, is titled, "Time running out for Alberta's dwindling grizzlies" with the subtitle "Minister mulls reinstating spring hunt even as gov't report recommends bears be listed as threatened species".

Political apathy rarely has a clearly defined target or plan of action. In this case, we have a dwindling population in Alberta of the grizzly bear, *Ursus arctos*. It is my view that we should not be hunting grizzly bear ANYWHERE in Alberta. We have cleared the grizzly bear from most of its historical habitats, mainly because we want that land for ourselves.

Can anyone tell me that there were fewer grizzly bears in Alberta 20, 40, or even 60 years ago, and that the newly generated population figure of 700 is a population high? I think not! And yet I know many hunters and woodsmen who can tell me that there were more even 20 years ago.

To paraphrase Pastor Martin Niemöler (with apologies):
First they came for the woodland caribou, and I did not speak out – because I was not a woodland caribou.
Then they came for the grizzly bear, and I did not speak out – because I was not a grizzly bear.
Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak out for me.

The management of a population of a species in one political jurisdiction does not impinge on that of another. In fact, things are quite the contrary (e.g., Prairie Dog, Swift Fox, Black-footed Ferret to name but a few). Here in Alberta (and Saskatchewan) we have tried to re-introduce these species. Why, some would ask, especially when the Prairie Dog is very common in a number of states in the U.S.

If a species is extirpated here in Alberta, general policy is that we try to obtain and introduce breeding specimens in order to return the species to its former home ranges in Alberta. This process is complicated and fraught with problems involving everything from present land use, land ownership, destruction of habitat and even extirpation of prey food (the Prairie Dog is the main food of the Black-footed Ferret).

Are we going to have to learn to do re-introductions all over again in the near future with the woodland caribou and the grizzly bear? I sure hope not. The Alberta Government needs to hear a strong, loud, clear voice against hunting the grizzly in Alberta. How much more apathy does the Alberta Government have to show and express before we say something?

These views are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of other members of ASPB.

Editor's Note: Worth Discussing? What do you think? Share your thoughts on the ASPB Website Discussion Forum

ASPB Discussion Forum

The ASPB Discussion Forum recently launched on the Member's page. Several discussions that are of interest to biologists are taking place there. Please share your knowledge with fellow biologists on the following topics by logging in and clicking on Forums:

Topics for Discussion

- Conservation of Alberta's Grizzly Bears in the News
- Should the ASPB endorse ASRD procedural standards for Species as Risk?
- ASPB Workshop suggestions
- Boreal Woodland Caribou populations are not substantively influenced by wolf density
- Alberta Woodland Caribou Population Declines - Science or Speculation?

Don't see a topic that you are interested in discussing? Feel free to post a new topic at any time. To start a discussion on the forum, just log in, click on Forums, click on General Discussion, then click on Post New Topic.

COMING: Book Reviews

Join Keith Whelpdale as he takes us through some interesting literature. Comments about the books and his reviews can be made on the ASPB Discussion Forum at www.aspb.ab.ca

Summer 2010 BIOS

Places: Linking Nature and Culture for Understanding and Planning

James Gordon Nelson and Patrick L. Lawrence (UofC Press)

Fall 2010 BIOS

The Algal Bowl: Overfertilization of the World's Freshwaters and Estuaries

David W. Schindler & John R. Vallentyne (UofA Press)

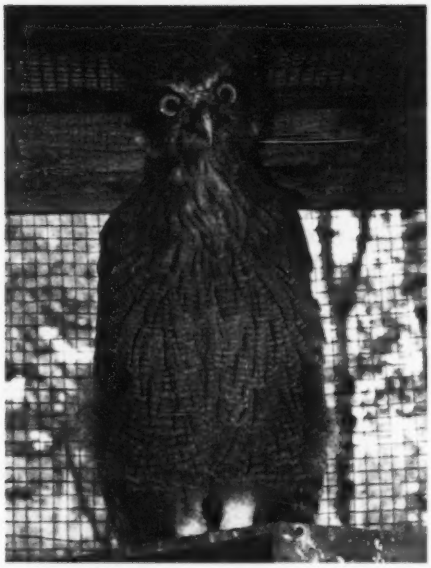
Winter 2010 BIOS

The World of Wolves: New Perspectives on Ecology, Behaviour and Management

Edited by Marco Musiani, Luigi Boitani, and Paul Paquet (UofC Press)

Hoo Are You?

by Cal Sikstrom, P. Biol.



A rare Blakiston's fish owl, one of Japan's natural treasures currently facing extinction, has been taken from its natural habitat on Russian – occupied Kunashiri Island to a zoo in Sakhalin for conservation (August 13, 2008).

We used to call owls in Canada, during March and April, to identify species and nesting sites for project environmental impact assessments. Some folk extended their talents by doing owl calls with beer bottles in the bar on some evenings, especially after tough days defending field results at public hearings. "Let's count some owls tonight" became the bar code for drinking beer. But when I tell you that I counted two owls October 19, 2008, I mean real owls; though I cannot say 'who' for certain.

I was at Lake Tunaycha, Sakhalin Island, Russia paddling my kayak and camping on the east shore. I had good access to wood and soon had a huge fire for cooking supper. There was a strong stench of rotting chum salmon up and down the shoreline. Gulls and crows were pecking the stranded carcasses. I moved a few of them away from my campsite before setting up the tent.

I was happy as a clam. The events of the day were running through my dreams like a news reel, until I woke up in the middle of the night, shivering. There was a bright full moon reflecting on the warm misty lake in front of me. My tent was hoary with frost and my condensed breath was on the tent fly. The big fire was just ashes, but when I stirred them, they glowed red, so I threw more wood on the fire and it caught. There was not a breath of wind.

"Hooo", called an owl, about 50 metres inland behind me.

I could not see it so I called "Hooo", and it responded, "Hoo hooo".
"Hoo hooo", yourself, I called.
"Hoo", and then, from perhaps 100 m down the shore, another owl called, "Hoo hooo Hooo".
"Hoo hoo".
"Hoo".
"Hoo hooo".

The second hooo was a little lower in pitch. After several rounds of calling I stopped – *three's a crowd,* I thought. But what species was calling?

I crawled back into my sleeping bag warmed by the fire and wondrous about what owl language I had been trying to imitate. With the smell of dead salmon in the air I began to think the impossible – *could these be Blakiston's fish owls?* The Blakiston's *(Bubo blakistoni)* is the largest owl in the world and a rare endangered species numbering fewer than a 1000 mature birds. The last wild Blakiston's on Sakhalin Island is known from a single feather found many decades ago. I chastised myself as I tried to sleep again. *The next time I'm on Tunaycha, I'll bring my tape recorder.*

* * *

Many birds, such as the cuckoo, and owls, have unique and very distinctive calls. I had never heard an owl call just like the ones at Tunaycha, so I asked Dr. Vladimir Masterov, a renowned ornithologist at Moscow State University, and he had me listen to various calls on his computer. The Ural owl *(Strix uralensis)* seemed like a possibility with its double note but it did not sound right.

So I went to the Internet owl pages web site and searched for my owl friends.

http://www.owlpages.com/sounds.php

The calls were definitely not Eurasian eagle owl *(Bubo bubo)*, Eurasion tawny owl *(Strix aluco)*, hoot owl *(Strix varia)*, Tengmalm's owl *(Aegolius funerus)*, snowy owl *(Bubo scandiacus)*, great grey owl *(Strix nebulosa)*, hawk owl *(Ninex scutulata)*, common scops owl *(Otus scopa)*, eastern screech owl *(Megasops asio)* or short eared owl *(Asio flammeus)*.

Finally, I listened to the long eared owl *(Asio otus)*. The hoo I heard at Tunaycha seemed just like a single recorded note from a male, and the hooo seemed like a female call but not repeated in fours as heard in the recording. This was still not conclusive and there was no Blakiston's call at this site.

Finally, I found a ringtone duet of Blakiston's on the Fish Owls main page. You can even download the call to your cell phone. Alas, the Blakiston's duet was not the call I heard at Tunaycha. The hoo hooo-ing I heard was likely from a pair of long eared owls, but I fervently wish that Blakiston's fish owls return to Sakhalin someday. I would like to be there again too, with the tape recorder running next time.

http://www.fishowls.com/

http://www.owlpages.com/owls.php?genus=Bubo&species=blakistoni

[1] Bird Life International estimate 250 to 999 in 2001.
http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/index.html?action=SpcHTMDetails.asp&sid=2229&m=1#
Site accessed October 14, 2009

Upcoming ASPB Events

Visit the ASPB website for Event details www.aspb.ab.ca

Conferences

April 14-15, 2010 ASPB 2010 Conference & AGM - Calgary Zoo
Innovations & Advancements in Biology
Conference Draft Program and Registration Available On-Line at www.aspb.ab.ca

Brown Bag Lunches and On-line Webinars 12:00-1:00pm

April 7, 2010 ASPB Brown Bag Lunch & Webinar
Biologists and Advocacy: Where are the lines that we must not cross?
Presenter: Dr Lee Foote, U of A
Location: **On-Line** and 10A (10th Floor), Great West Life Bldg, 9920 - 108 St Edmonton

Members and Non-Members Welcome – Bring Your Lunch!
Contact Linda Zimmerling linda.zimmerling@gov.ab.ca for more information or to join on-line.

April 21, 2010 ASPB Brown Bag Lunch & Webinar
Alberta Ecological Communities
Presenter: Lorna Allen, ANHIC Coordinator
Location: **On-line** and at 6A (6th Floor), Great West Life Bldg, 9920 - 108 St. Edmonton

Contact Angela Holzapfel (Angela_Holzapfel@golder.com) for more information and to join on-line.

May 5, 2010 ASPB Brown Bag Lunch & Webinar
Range expansion of white-tailed deer: responses to climate change and energy sector land use
Presenter: Kimberly Dawe
Location: **On-line** and at 6A (6th Floor), Great West Life Bldg, 9920 - 108 St. Edmonton

Contact Angela Holzapfel (Angela_Holzapfel@golder.com) for more information and to join on-line.

May 17, 2010 ASPB Brown Bag Lunch
Restoration of Rough Fescue Grassland in Central Alberta
Presenter: Peggy Desserud
Location: Husky Building Conference Room D on the +30 level, 707 8th Ave SW Calgary

Workshops

April 30, 2010 ASPB Presents Fish Health and Ageing Workshop 9 am to 4 pm
Presenter: Heidi Swanson
Location: Golder Associates Warehouse 10511 – 170 St NW, Edmonton

Workshop coordinator can be reached for inquiries at angela_holzapfel@golder.com

Registration is Available at the On-line Store at www.aspb.ab.ca

May 31, 2010 ASPB Presents Introductory Plant Identification Workshop – 9 am to 5 pm

Presenter: Mari Decker and Amy Griffiths
Workshop coordinator can be reached for inquiries at kforeman@teraenv.com

Registration is available on-line at www.aspb.ab.ca

June 11, 2010 ASPB and Prairie and Northern Plant Diversity Centre Present Advanced Vascular Plant Identification Workshop
Presenter: Joyce Gould
Workshop coordinator can be reached for inquiries at nadine98fox@yahoo.com

Registration is available on-line at www.aspb.ab.ca

June 12-13, 2010 ASPB and Prairie and Northern Plant Diversity Center Present Moss Identification Workshop
Presenters: Dr Rene Belland and Richard Caners
Workshop coordinator can be reached for inquiries at Education.DBG@afhe.ualberta.ca

Socials

May 6, 2010 ASPB Spring Social - Calgary

Be sure to check the website for details of upcoming ASPB events. Some workshops we are developing for this summer include Introductory Sedge Identification, Lichen Identification, and Reclamation.

ASPB Call for Volunteers

Practice Review Committee

The Board of Directors is looking for members to join the Practice Review Committee. This committee will be responsible for the following:

- reviewing and updating the Continuing Competency Program (CCP)
- testing the audit protocol and member's volunteer compliance with the program
- creating awareness and acceptance of the CCP
- liaising with the Discipline Committee
- reviewing and directing the Mentoring program

Please contact Carol Engstrom Carol.Engstrom@huskyenergy.com if you are interested.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with BIOS in the following role:
ASPB Committee Correspondent – This volunteer would interview the 7 ASPB Committee Chairs and ASPB President on a quarterly basis and write a column for each edition of BIOS. This column would inform members about what ASPB volunteers have been working on.

Please email pbiol@aspb.ab.ca if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.